GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3284
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZERS
JASKAUR MEENA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertility of land in various States of the country are declining due to deficiency of Potash;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the potash fertilizers can be made available to the farmers to increase the fertility of the land; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made in that regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. The foodgrains production in the country is steadily increasing to show that in general there is no decline in the fertility of land. The foodgrains production was 208.81 million tons during 1999-2000, which is estimated to be about 211 million tons during 2001-02. The lower foodgrains production of 196 million tons during 2000-01 is attributed to drought like situation in many States.

There are however instances of declining soil health and productivity due to inadequate and imbalanced use of fertilizers in certain areas of the country. Based on analysis of soils it is noticed that the crop available potassium in some of our soils is in short supply and its use is recommended.

(c)&(d): There is no shortage of potashic fertilizers. All the fertilizers have price support from the Government to make available fertilizers at a reasonable price to farmers.